

## **FoodNet Active Surveillance for *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE): 1996**

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**Objective:** To determine the population-based epidemiology of SE in sites participating in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet).

**Methods:** Active laboratory-based surveillance for selected foodborne pathogens, including *Salmonella*, was begun in 1996 in FoodNet sites including Minnesota (MN), Oregon (OR), and counties in California (CA), Connecticut (CT), and Georgia (GA) (total population 13.2 million). Data collected on SE were analyzed for 1996.

**Results:** Overall, 358 (17%) of all 2069 cases of *Salmonella* were SE. Incidence rates of SE per 100,000 population differed by site: GA (0.5/100,000), OR (1.2), MN (2.6), CA (2.9), and CT (7.9). Median age of SE cases was 33 years. Overall age-specific rates of SE were highest among children <1 year (3.9/100,000 population), with wide variation by state, ranging from no cases in CA and GA to 22/100,000 in CT. In all age groups, rates were highest in CT, except for the 50-59 age group (CA 7.1 vs. CT rate of 5.4). By race/ethnicity, rates were highest among Hispanics (3.9/100,000 population) followed by blacks (2.3), whites (2.1), and Asians (1.2). Among Hispanics, rates were particularly high for children <1 year (13/100,000) and those 1-10 years (9). Incidence peaked in summer in each site (July-Sept, 39% of cases). One person died and 17% were hospitalized.

**Conclusions:** More than fifteen years after SE began to increase in the northeastern US, rates continue to vary markedly by region. Analysis of data from case-control studies conducted by FoodNet sites may assist in identifying specific risk factors for SE infection that contributes to regional differences.

### **Suggested citation:**

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